

### REMARKS

In the Office action dated September 11, 2003, claims 35-37, 39-49 and 51-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pryor (4,398,789). Additionally, claims 38 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pryor.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that the Pryor reference does not teach a control system for a water spa intended to remain substantially continuously filled between uses. In fact, Pryor discloses an incoming hot water line 15 and an incoming cold water line 16 in combination with an optional heater 40. In operation, the Pryor teaches supplying heated water through hot water line 15. As such, Pryor does not disclose a water spa intended to remain substantially continuously filled between uses but rather teaches refilling a bathing system with heated or other water between uses.

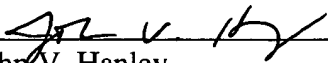
Moreover, the Pryor reference does not teach the system interconnection panel recited in each of the pending claims. Additionally, the Pryor reference does not teach a system interconnection panel including a step-down power supply. On the contrary, as stated by the Examiner, the Pryor reference merely teaches an optional display 45 that can be provided electrically using low voltage LEDs. Clearly, the optional display 45 of Pryor does not qualify as a system interconnection panel including a step-down power supply. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is believed that each of the pending claims recite patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

  
John V. Hanley  
Registration No. 38,171

JVH/kst  
Fulwider Patton Lee & Utecht, LLP  
Howard Hughes Center  
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Tele.: (310) 824-5555  
Fax: (310) 824-9696  
Customer No. 24201